

The *Guildford* Globe



The new walking, bike trail.

Inside:

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Speculation is rife that the rail line from Newstead to Castlemaine via Guildford is to be converted into a dedicated walking/cycling path.

The Mt. Alexander Shire Council recently received a \$2 million grant from the State Government for various infrastructure projects and part of this was an estimated \$820,000 investment in turning the old rail track into paths.

Another proposal put forward is to res-

urrect the actual rail line. However, this is believed to be unlikely due to the cost of restoring the rails, rolling stock and the fact that the estimated return would not justify the outlay.

Also in the planning is a further extension of the path from Castlemaine to Maldon.

The Council has also earmarked funds to be used in identifying, creating and upgrading walking paths in and around the Guildford locality.



Greetings

And welcome to 2012.

As it is said: "Everything changes and yet, everything stays the same."

Every now and then one has to stop and ponder the truth that we do, indeed, live in a small town. This of course does not mean one shouldn't get involved. But, as the Progress Association's Annual General Meeting exemplified, when it comes to volunteering, it's the same people who always put their hand up. For this reason we have a Progress Committee that is, as they say in Thailand, very much "same, same." And a committee that is still bereft of a secretary.

Last year when the editorship of the Globe changed, there was no shortage of "concerned" citizens cramming the monthly Progress meeting, screaming for retribution, baying for change. But when it became apparent that they weren't going to succeed in forcing their collective will on Progress, rather than hang in and offer their services to assist, they simply disappeared.

We are a small community and it is the responsibility of all of us, at some time or another, to put in.

As the saying goes, "United we stand, divided we fall."

On another note: It appears that the roadworks on the corner of Franklin and Turner Street are back on the agenda

after eight months. A spokesperson for Coliban Water admitted to me that it was the relentless prodding by *The Globe* that actually alerted them to the problem.

The person at Mt Alexander Shire Council responsible for the job also quietly resigned over Christmas. So when push came to shove, the roadworks should be completed by the end of the month.

Just remember folks, if there is an issue that is pertinent to the welfare of Guildford, let us know. *The Globe* is not afraid to take up the cudgels on your behalf.

Also in this issue we have the extended memoirs of Ron Passalacqua on the way we were over the past century. In starts on Page 7

Finally, congratulations go to Pam and Brian Adams who last week became grandparents not once, but twice.

Abigail Maree and Edward Ronald (Ned) born one day apart.

Way to go,

This issue has not been easy to produce. Upon returning from India I discovered that my computer crashed, and passed away so I have been working on my old machine (which is slow and painful) until I get a decent replacement.

But as you can see, where there's a will...etc...

Enjoy this issue,

Rajeev

19

Place the Guilly girls ran (out of 221) in Breast Cancer Triathalon on 29 January. See P14.

8

Number of months since work started and then, stopped, on the corner of Turner and Franklins streets.

\$15000

Grant received by Guildford Landcare from north central catchment authority enhancing upper catchments site: Loddon River. at Vaughan for 600m downstream of Tarilta Rd Bridge. Removal of blackberry and gorse and 500m of fencing for limited stock access.

They also received grants for: Limestone Creek re-vegetation enhancement \$2500.

From Mt. Alexander shire: \$1500 for bridal creeper program.

From Parksvic: \$1000 for program of weed maintenance control at Kangaroo Gully Tarilta and Red Knob Vaughan

And Hepburn Shire \$1800 for re-vegetation on Jim Crow creek Yandoit.

Go Maurie!

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Scanlon sells community plan



Jill Scanlon, Community Planner with the Mount Alexander Shire, briefed the February Progress Association meeting on the latest developments with respect to the Local Community Action Plan.

As we have previously reported, communities with a population of 200 and up will be eligible to become involved. Guildford missed out on the first round in favour of Newstead, Harcourt and Taradale but is expected to be selected for the second round later this year.

The Council has received funding for the Plan from the State Government in order to work with local communities over the next three years. This entails identifying their needs and aspirations through the development of at least nine Local Community Action Plans across the Shire.

Ms Scanlon told the meeting that it was up to the community to come together and discuss ideas and concepts on what they feel will be of benefit to our long term aspirations.

Continued page 4

The Committee

In Guildford, everything changes and yet, everything stays the same.

As it was at the Annual General Meeting of the Guildford Progress Association.

The Committee basically moved in circles, almost. Jim Franzi was elected President for the third year running and Carol Geraghty Treasurer for the second year. Deb Dodson resigned as secretary and Pam Adams as Vice President to move to the backbench as it were.

Joining them was Tony Derrett. Filling the VP chair was the erstwhile Victor Rodda who promised to add a bit of heft to the committee.

At the meeting nobody put their hand up for secretary. {see right}

There was some new blood when it came to membership of Progress, which is a good thing. Not surprisingly, many of those who were involved in some controversy during 2011 failed to renew.

Jim reported on 2011 being a good year. Carol reiterated that the finances were in good order. Even The Globe showed a small profit.

Now that things have settled down, the Association looks forward to a fruitful 2012.



2012 Progress Committee (back fr left) Adams P; Derrett T; Dodson D; (front) Geraghty C; Franzi J and Rodda V,

Wanted: One secretary

After two years in the job, and due too ever increasing business commitments, Deb Dodson has decided to hang up her note book and laptop and retire as Secretary of Progress.

This leave the dilemma as to who will replace her. As at press time nobody has put their hand up.

So come on citizens,,,,, how about a little civic duty.

If you're interested contact Deb at debdodson@bigpond.com

Important Information

This summer, electricity businesses will be modifying their powerline safety settings to reduce the risk of bushfires. This may delay restoring power if a fault occurs. Consider your need for back-up power if you are highly reliant on electricity. Remember power outages can also affect phones, radios and water pumps.

- Have a battery-powered radio and spare batteries or a wind-up radio available to hear alerts and warnings in case power fails;
- Have a landline with a cord, a fully charged mobile phone as backup and a spare battery and;
- Have a non-electric pump available that can be operated from an alternative water supply such as a swimming pool, concrete or metal tank, or dam.

If you lose power, contact your electricity distribution business on the "Faults and Emergencies" number on your most recent electricity bill.

Be prepared. For more information go to www.esv.vic.gov.au

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Worts this plant?

It might just look like a nondescript flower to you.

But to Maurie Dynon's cultured eye it is more than that.

Much more.

Yes folks, it is indeed the small milkwort.

And Guildford Landcare have been involved in the discovery and protection of this rare and endangered colony known as *Scomesperma polygaloides* [small milkwort] on the guildford plateau

This plant and others are managed by our landcare group under the threatened species program conducted by the DSE Dept



Scanlon

Continued from page 3

Over the coming year, Ms Scanlon will be talking with locals to gauge the current status of projects, plans, social issues and needs. This information will provide the background to start the process of community planning, where Guildford community members will be given the opportunity to be involved.

As well as Newstead, Harcourt and Taradale the other communities expected to be included are, indeed, Guildford, Chewton, Elphinstone, Maldon, Baringhup and Campbells Creek.

Ms Scanlon explained that community engagement is anticipated to incorporate workshops, one-on-one meetings, information sessions and surveys.

Being a Guildford resident herself, Ms Scanlon has a dual interest in the outcome, however she was quick to point out that this would not influence her actions.



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Meanwhile in Franklin Street

After eight months they actually start what they needed to finish

Last June the Mt. Alexander Shire Council started work to fix the corner of Turner and Franklin Streets.

Not long thereafter they hit a water pipe and realised that it was relatively ancient and needed to be replaced before any asphalt could be laid.

Not so, said Coliban Water, who claimed the pipes were perfectly ok and did not need replacing. And so the stand-off began,

With gravel on the road it was becoming more dangerous by the day and after heavy rain in December a fissure opened across the road.

To add insult to injury each side was double talking the other.

However, in early January, after much angst between Coliban Water and the Mt Alexander Shire Council all was



resolved. This week the suspect pipe has been replaced after which the Council will (hopefully) commence sealing the road.



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Dancing in the Streets of Bangalore



Indian tradition requires that the hands of the bride and female family members are painted in henna. Here's how Mary's looked. The henna washes out over two weeks.



Feb market small but enthusiastic

Compared with the bumper Christmas event the February Village Market was small and intimate.

What the market lacked in stall numbers it made up in enthusiasm.

Irene Fitness has taken over the community stall from David Wallace who has retired from the position. She is actively seeking participants to become involved.

The next Market on 14th April should be a good one as it is on the same weekend as the Vintage Engine Show.

For further enquiries call John Burford on 5476 4266



We asked you to send us your holiday stories. As nobody did...here's ours or part thereof.

In January, Guildford resident Mary Soderiou's son Michael was married to an Australian born Indian woman, in Bangalore.

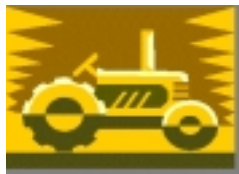
It was the full Indian wedding that went for two days. On the morning of the ceremony, the groom rides to temple on a white horse along with the guests dancing to a group of Indian musicians through peak hour traffic.

Here's a joyful mother of the groom doing her thing.

It was a great couple of days.

We spent the next two weeks recuperating in Kerala in south India.

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Unlike the banjos, Guildford's violin conference will be more sedate...well almost.



Picture: Alan Coggins

The Australian Violin Makers Association will host the Fourth Australian International Violin Maker's Conference over the weekend of 2 – 5 March 2012 in Guildford.

The Conference is held every three years and organised by Guildford violin makers Rainer Beilharz and Alex Grant, ably assisted by their wives and with catering by Deb Dodson. This will be the third time this conference has been held in Guildford over the past 12 years.

This year the presenters are coming from France, England and the USA and they will be supported by a selection of Australian luminaries of the craft. These include, French bow making legend Stéphane Thomachot from Paris; violin maker and researcher, Sam Zygmuntowicz from the USA and Andrew Fairfax from the UK. Andrew has been a restorer for J & A Beare for many years whilst continuing to make instruments and

co-author various papers and books for BVMA Publications.

In addition, we will have local presenters Alan Coggins on violin photography; Kae Sato-Goodsell demonstrating the use of computer generated outlines, moulds and templates; David Guscott presenting on electric instruments and his journey in this genre. There will be a show and tell of attendees' instruments, as usual, so please bring your instruments along.

The event will mainly take place in the hall and local businesses are assisting with accommodating, watering and feeding the roughly 50 attendees that will descend on Guildford for the weekend.

It should be stressed that this is a conference for violin makers and whilst some of the attendees may pull out their instruments for a few tunes, there will be no busking in the streets.



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your life?

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Don't risk your life on a last minute decision.

Be prepared for a bush or grass fire, wherever you are.

A wet year doesn't mean we're safe from bush or grass fires.

Rain encourages growth. It only takes a week or two of hot, dry weather to turn growth into fuel for a fire. Fires don't just threaten people who live in the bush. Anyone can be affected.

Write or review your Bushfire Survival Plan and practise it.

Even if you've already written your plan it's no time to be complacent. Give yourself and everyone you love a better chance of survival

by thinking through your decisions and reminding everyone of what they should do.

You think that you are ready, but are you really ready?

Do you have a good understanding of the risk around you and have you thought through all of the possible scenarios and what you will do? Find out for sure by taking the FireReady Quiz or the FireReady Challenge at cfa.vic.gov.au.

Make your plan at cfa.vic.gov.au or call 1800 240 667.

It could save your life.

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FireReady 

The Passalacqua Story

By Ron Passalacqua J.P.
February 1995

In 1995 Ron Passalacqua wrote a treatise entitled "My Memories of Guildford". His son, Ross drew heavily on these memories in a speech he was asked to make as a former pupil at the recent 150th anniversary of Guildford Public School No 264.

"Dad was very keen to commit his memories to paper before he passed away," explains Ross, "Guildford was always his home and he loved its history and the story of the Passalacqua family as part of this history."

"Dad's memories of Guild-



ford were mostly of happy times, even in the depression years. While he was only a boy and youth in these times, his recollection of the people who came to the district were of people who made the most of their lot and who still derived much happiness from the simple things in life. Dad would often talk especially about the regular music and concerts that greatly entertained participants and audiences.

"This is my Dad's story and I know he would be pleased for it to be shared with the current residents of Guildford."

I WAS BORN ON THE 8TH OF SEPTEMBER 1921 in the house on the corner of Ballarat and Fletcher Streets the site that was originally the Passalacqua Farmers Arms Hotel.

When my father returned from the war in 1919 he employed Joe and Theo Harford to demolish part of the Hotel and rebuild it as you see it today. My brother Frank, date of birth 21st September 1924, and my sister Patricia date of birth 30th December 1926 were also born here. Our grandmother known to everybody in the district as "Granny Pass" delivered us. Granny Pass was a midwife and from records that I have, she delivered 147 children between the years 1901-1926.

I can remember my father and Uncle Jack working on the school grounds, carting soil and levelling it to make a better playing field for the children.

I started school when I was 4 years 3 months old and my number on

the school register was 283. After I had been at school for one year, my father purchased McElhinney's butchering business which was in London House in Fryers Street, so we moved from the house where we were born into the house which was attached to the shop. This was to be our home until we children were married and built our own homes.

The headmaster at school when I started was Mr. Robert Fletcher 1923-1930, then came a relieving teacher Mr. Thomas until Mr. Reginald Cerchi arrived as headmaster from 1930 to 1941.

At school we had a slate and slate pencil and a school paper which had a spelling list on the back, we received a new school paper every month and each night we would have to learn to spell six of the words that were on the spelling lists

We used to have an Arbour Day every year - this involved planting pine trees in the pine plantation in Russell Square (now the John Powell Reserve). We also had a Bird Day when we all went somewhere up Pound lane near the Ellis's property, now owned by Hugh Perry and looked at the bird life, and tried to find bird nests etc. Education at State Schools went to Grade 8. We sat for a qualification examination in Grade 6, and the merit certificate in Grade 8. Also in Grade 8 a pupil was chosen to have his or her name on the Honour Board and a prize was given. An Honour Board was

presented to every State School in the Castlemaine district by the "Old Castlemaine School Boys Association"

I won this prize in 1933 and I chose a book of poems written by Adam Lindsay Gordon.

After leaving the State School we rode our bikes to the High or Technical School in Castlemaine and on some of the very bad winter days we caught the motor train at 7a.m. It returned from Castlemaine at 4:30pm. This train operated between Castlemaine and Maryborough. During these years the road was very rough. There were two sets of railway gates, one each side of Yapeen. The nearest to Guildford was manned by the Brook's Family, followed by the Sullivans, then the Adamsons. At the Castlemaine end Mr. Pascoe and his family were in charge of these gates for many years, followed by the Dickson Family. The railway gates and Yapeen were bypassed in 1966.

There was a bake house in Yapeen owned and run by Mr. Jim Martin and his son Cyril. They made bread and, for many years, delivered it around the districts of Guildford, Vaughan, Tarilta, and of course Yapeen itself. When Mr. Martin retired the business was taken over by Ray Featherby and Gordon Barassi. I cannot say when this business ceased to operate.

Another important piece of history that happened in Guildford during my life was the rebuilding of the bridge over the Loddon River by the Jackson Brothers (Percy Jackson was the father of Melva Passalacqua) in 1940, and it was re-decked by Herd Brothers in 1956.

The townships business area consisted of Wilfred Mein's store, Possey Delmenico's Hotel, the Post Office run by Miss Edith Ellis, Alf Passalacqua's Butcher shop, Tommy Simms' boot repair and saddlery shop also paper shop, George Tullo and Dick Hills' blacksmith shop and Kirkpatrick's Candle and Soap Factory. This industry was established in 1855 by Mr. William Spinks, who was joined in 1857 by Mr. Israel Kirkpatrick, a soap maker from Belfast, Northern Ireland. The candles and soap were in great demand by the miners. My father used to melt down the beef fat for dripping, which

was used for cooking and the mutton fat was melted down and sold to the skin buyer, but when Mum was in need of washing soap, a kerosene tin full of fat was taken through the fence to the soap factory. In return we received several bars of soap. The Kirkpatrick Family continued this prosperous industry until 1937. Last but not least, was Tom Weston's threshing machine. During harvesting time it employed fifteen men and operated in the districts of Daylesford, Kyneton, Bridgewater and Serpentine as well as the local area.

The Blacksmith shop was where the fire station is now situated and Mr. Simms had his shop and home opposite the butcher shop.

On the corner where the hall is, was a building which in the early days was a hotel, butcher shop and a chemist. In 1923 the Oddfellows Club was formed, this comprised 50 members of the Loyal Strathloddon Lodge, who each contributed one pound to instigate the purchase of this building which was owned by Mr. Dunstan. The building was renovated and paid for by monies obtained locally from a sports meeting and dances, over 400 pounds being raised in this manner. It became known as The Strathloddon Lodge Hall,

and served the people of Guildford as a community hall for many years. In the early years it was also used by Dr. Steele from Castlemaine who visited every Tuesday and attended to anyone requiring medical attention. Also Mr. Yandell a dentist from Castlemaine visited every Wednesday for anyone who required dental treatment. During the War it served as a spotting post. A telephone was installed also photos of all types of planes. It was manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by the local community, the idea being, should a plane or planes be seen or heard, it was to be reported to an office in Bendigo giving all details possible (number, type and direction etc.)

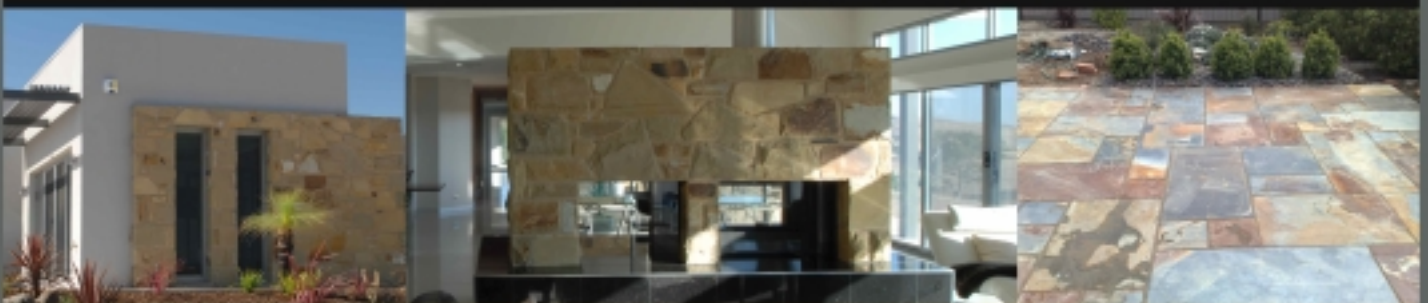
There was a police station on the main road next to the public hall. The policemen I remember were Mr. Sibbison followed by Mr. Vinicombe (Grandfather of Olympic cyclist Martin Vinicombe) and Mr. Bell. It was



On some of the very bad winter days we caught the motor train at 7a.m. It returned from Castlemaine at 4:30pm. This train operated between Castlemaine and Maryborough. During these years the road was very rough. There were two sets of railway gates, one each side of Yapeen.

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during Mr. Vinicombe's time that a nine hole golf course was made by Alf Passalacqua, Reg Cerchi, Dick Hill, and Mr. Vinicombe. This course was situated up on the recreation reserve, Westons paddock (now Scobles) and the Passalacqua's cave gully paddock which was over the cemetery road. All the golf sticks for these golfers were made by Dick Hill and George Tullo at the Blacksmith's shop. (I still have three of these sticks) All this took place in the early '30s which were the depression years. Not many people owned a motor car in those days. From what I can remember the only cars in Guildford were owned by Wilfred Mein, Billange Blinkhom, Alf Passalacqua, Jack Powell, Bill Robinson, Possey Delmenico and Duke Delmenico who had an 8 seater Dodge. He worked in Castlemaine and used to take other people who also worked in the foundry or woollen mill. Dave Carter rode an A.J.S. Motor Bike and George (Giddy) Davis had an Indian Motor Bike and side car (Giddy lived in Tarilta). The people were also serviced by a mail car which left Castlemaine, travelled through Chewton, Fryerstown, Vaughan, Tarilta, Guildford, Yapeen, Campbells Creek and finally back to Castlemaine. This car would take passengers and would arrive in Guildford at 10.30am and do the reverse trip arriving in Guildford at 3.30pm.

Wireless had not long been available. We had a crystal set with one set of ear phones, this was made by Alec Reid who lived in Yapeen.

Guildford sports ground before 1948 when Russell Square was levelled and became the John Powell Re-

serve, was the recreational reserve in Reserve Street, this was only known as the "Rec." We had good football teams winning premierships in 1924 and 1928. When the football team ceased to exist I do not remember, but it would have been in the early '30s. There were two buildings on this reserve, one the changing room for the football club, the other a concrete brick building with a lift up front. This was used for serving afternoon teas, drinks etc. Visiting football teams changed down at the hotel. I remember Mr. Tommy Simms was the gate keeper on the eastern side (pine plantation). I do not remember who was in charge of the double gate on the western side, this gate was to admit cars, horse drawn vehicles etc.

When football was in progress the spectators never stayed behind the boundary until forced off when play came their way. A couple of funny things I can remember are when my Dad was mixed up in the play, Granny Pass would hop in with her walking stick "Don't you hurt my Alf". I can still see one of the townsfolk, a Mr. Percy Rankin who smoked cigars, would have the butt stuck on to his pen knife to make sure he got the last puff out of it. Any dustups between the players also involved the spectators.

A meeting was held in Gaffuey's Hotel on the 14th September 1862 to form a cricket club which was long before my time. We always had strong sides competing in the Castlemaine association. At the Recreation Reserve

The townships business area consisted of Wilfred Mein's store, Possey Delmenico's Hotel, the Post Office run by Miss Edith Ellis, Alf Passalacqua's Butcher shop, Tommy Simms' boot repair and saddlery shop also paper shop, George Tullo and Dick Hills' blacksmith shop and Kirkpatrick's Candle and Soap Factory.

we had a concrete pitch with matting on top, then we replaced the matting with malthoid, but when we later played on the John Powell Reserve we had a turf wicket. But I must say that the "Rec." served the people of Guildford well for 100 years. Whilst I am writing about this area, in about 1950 a motorbike scramble track was made up in Weston's Paddock (now Scobles). It went through water courses etc., meetings were held somewhere in the district most weekends. At that time it was a very popular sport throughout Victoria.

Let's now go back to the early '30s which were the depression years, many people were out of work and moved into country areas to fossick for gold, cut wood or do anything else that would earn them a few shillings. We had cousins Phil and Bill Greives from Melbourne come to stay with us. Bill did wood cutting. Two other men Mr. Brown and his son who came from Melbourne, made their camp in the paddock next to the slaughter yard near the mulberry tree. Frank and I would go rabbiting with them most Saturday afternoons; there was also, Bill Joyce who made his camp in the slaughter yard block.

Later, when the police station was sold, Possey Delmenico bought the gaol and moved it on to his block of land next to the hall. Bill Joyce moved from his camp, built a lean to against the gaol, and spent the rest of his life there.

During the depression, men were cutting wood, fossicking for gold with cradles, pans etc. Possey Delmenico and Futch Delmenico started a sluicing plant in Futch's paddock near the Vaughan-Tarilta turn-off. When finished, it left a



large dam which became known as "Futch's Dam", also Mr. McMinn, who was a tailor in Castlemaine started up a similar plant near Biggy Faull's crossing in Yapeen. When he worked this area out, he shifted to the orchard opposite the railway station north of the Railway Arch. They dredged across to the river and when finished left a large hole with plenty of water in it. Roly Stevens, Syd Butterworth and Wally Maple were some of the men who worked this plant. This became our swimming hole in years to come.

In those years there was no dole as we have today, Men received food vouchers for the grocer, butcher etc. but in return they had to do a number of hours work for the council, cleaning out gutters etc. This was called sustenance or commonly called the "Susso". There were hundreds of men walking or travelling around on their bikes, laden with sleeping and cooking gear. These men were known as swag men or swaggies. They would call into homes and offer to cut a heap of firewood, sharpen knives and scissors or do any work for a cut lunch. This they would take down under the bridge over the Loddon to have their meal and camp the night. This went on until well into the '30s then the war came in 1939 creating work for everybody.

The railway station was staffed by two station masters from early Monday morning until the last train about 11p.m. on Saturday night. There were no trains on Sundays. We had several station masters in my time but

one I must mention was Clem Mahoney. He was a single man and boarded at the hotel. When he was on duty on Saturday nights, he enjoyed having us kids down there with him for company. He would let us talk to the other stations on the phone, ride up and down on the trolley, and he would buy a bag of biscuits and some soft drink for our supper. He spent a lot of time at our place, came rabbiting with us on Sundays, and became a good mate to all of us. I am not sure when the railway station closed, the station masters I can remember were Mr. Riley, Mr. Boucher, Mr. Jukes, Mr. McKenzie, Clem Mahoney, Mr. Fothergill and Mr. Ferguson.

During our youth we spent most of our spare time during the summer months swimming in the river. The first swimming hole I remember was at the bend on the left hand side of the bridge, when going to Castlemaine. Later on, I would say 1933-34 we moved upstream to a pool below Togni's, which was in the river below where the Church of England is now. In those years there was a lot of dredging being done at Vaughan and the water that came down the Loddon was thick with yellow mud. However, we still had fun having mud fights etc.

Guildford at this time had many orchards. Near the pool I have just been writing about was an apricot orchard owned by Mr. Tod Delmenico. We used to eat as many apricots as we could, go back swimming, it didn't seem to do us any harm. Down the river flats from our first swimming hole at the bend, I mentioned earlier, to and beyond the railway line were all orchards, apples, plums pears etc. We were never stopped from helping ourselves to any of this fruit. Besides swimming, we used to go fishing. There was plenty of Redfin in the Loddon until the dredging started. The dredging muddied the water and destroyed the fishing. We also spent many happy hours catching yabbies from the dams. To mention a few, there were Passalacqua's and Barassi's up Shicer Gully, Foletti's at Pennyweight Hill and Ellis's up Pound Road.

Another favourite pastime was playing marbles and cigarette cards. Of course we always had a bonfire every year. We would cart bushes down from the bush near the cemetery and make a large bonfire, either in Russell Square or on the river bank near the bridge.

In 1932 the Guildford Boy Scout troop was formed. The Scoutmaster was Eric Woodman from Castlemaine and the assistant scoutmaster was Jack Bower, from Campbells Creek. Eric had a Panther motorbike and side-



When football was in progress the spectators never stayed behind the boundary until forced off when play came their way. A couple of funny things I can remember are when my Dad was mixed up in the play, Granny Pass would hop in with her walking stick "Don't you hurt my Alfy" .

the scouts working for the various badges etc. Scouting was a very strong organisation and most boys spent many happy years in the Scouting movement. Guildford's neckerchief colours were brown with a gold edging, these colours were retained in a cub pack that was formed in 1957 and run by Marlene Nicholls and Elva Davis. Elaine Stevens took over later. I still have my neckerchief and my son Peter wore it when in the cubs. I also have my whistle and lanyard.

In 1934 the Guildford Plateau Mine began operating. It was during this time that an employee from the mine, an Italian called Peter, introduced

to the town the game of Bocce, commonly called "Butch" to the locals. It first began in the backyard of Passey's Pub using homemade bowls. Later it became a bit more professional using proper green bowls. Many pleasant Saturday afternoons and summer evenings were spent playing this game. The main players were Dad, Uncle Jack, Dave Carter, Possey, Peter, Reg Cerchi and other visitors to the town. Years later after the mine closed in about 1940 and Peter left the town the game still carried on and Possey Delmenico decided to have a "Butch" tournament on Christmas Day. Twelve bottles of wine to the winner, six for the runner up. This day became very popular. There were so many entries it took all day and often up to 8pm to decide the winners. When the John Powell Reserve was constructed, the tournament was held there. Whilst remembering the "Butch" in Passey's backyard I would like to refer to the game of Iron Quoits.

The mine managers were firstly Mr. Ray who had a family of two girls and a boy, Elza, May, and Arthur. Elza married Ron Barassi (Senior), May married Clarrie Minotti and Arthur married Margaret Featherby. Unfortunately, Ron was killed at Tobruk on the 31st July 1941, Arthur died in his early 40s. Following Mr. Ray came Mr. Clark, he had no wife and bordered with Mr. and Mrs. Small who lived in the house that was the police

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station. Mr. Clark remained as mine manager until it closed. He had a son Bill who would come and stay with his father on occasions. Ron Barassi Sr worked at the mine before he went to the war and when he was on night shift there were times when I would go down and be with him. His job was to take the trucks as they came up from below and empty the contents into the puddling machine, which was situated about half way up the poppet legs. This mine was not a very profitable concern, I believe it only realised about 25 oz. of gold per week. There was also the central mine which was over on the plateau near Parsnose Gully. I don't know much about this mine but it started in the late '30s and I can't remember when it closed. I do know my Uncle Jack worked there. He and other workers from Guildford walked to work up over Jimmy Steven's Hill, crossed the Loddon by going across the swinging bridge. It was quite a walk up the plateau to the mine.

The social activities comprised of kid's concerts, organised by Mrs. Weston, Mrs. Kirkpatrick and Mrs. Tyzack. These were held in Delmenico's hall and the amount of work that went into putting on these concerts, between making costumes, getting all the kids to know their parts, was a great credit the ladies I have mentioned. One interesting item, I must mention was Eily Pass and myself singing "When you and I were Young Maggie". I had to be bald, and the only way we could accomplish this in those days was to have a pig's bladder pulled over my hair (can you imagine that sort of makeup today?). Whilst on concerts, Jeff Ryland and his family took over the store in about 1954. Jeff's parents also came to live in

Guildford, and with their great talent we put on quite a few concerts. Dances were held on a regular basis, early days in Delmenico's Hall, then the School or Lodge Hall. Guildford was a very fortunate town. The music was always supplied free of charge by Dad and Wilf Mein and later by Dad, my brother-in-law Lester Taylor and myself. A Euchre Tournament was held every Tuesday night for the local card enthusiasts in Delmenico's Hall, then Lodge Hall and in later years our new hall.

In the mid '30s my father started up the Guildford Orchestra. This comprised Dad (Trumpet) Wilfred Mein (Euphonium) Norman Mein (Piccolo and Cornet) Gordon Mein and Tony Togni (Violins) Freda Blinkhom (Piano). From this band of musicians emerged the Guildford dance band. It played for balls that were held in Castlemaine Town Hall. At these balls, other musicians joined the band, Dad went on to playing drums, Freda (Piano), Jim Lavercombe (Slapbass) Arthur Flowers (B flat Bass) Tony with Lester Taylor and Mr. Skidmore (Violins) Bill McLaughlan (Trombone) Jack Ryan (Trumpet) Col Waddinton (Saxophone). So you can imagine the type of old time dance music these talented musicians supplied. It was not long before Dad, Freda and Tony started a three piece dance band and played

for most of the dances that were held in the district. Freda married and left the town, Tony also left the town so Dad started from scratch again. He invited Lester Taylor to join the band. Lester played Violin but later took on

Saxophone and put his Violin into mothballs. Mitty Barlow also joined the band playing piano. After her came Ray Severino followed by Tom Hackett. When Tom and Lester went to the war I took over the drums, Dad the piano, and Jack Ryan the Trumpet. Besides playing for the many dances held in the surrounding district we played alternate Saturday nights at Fryerstown and Chewton. In approximately 1944, the Castlemaine R.S.L. Repatriation Committee approached us about playing in the Castlemaine Town Hall every Saturday Night. This we decided to accept, so we set up a five piece band and called ourselves Passey's Players.

Others who played in the band at some time or other were Reg Bogie, Jack Heagney and Gwen Johns. In our five piece band Dad played piano, myself drums, Lester and Ian Punton Saxophones, and Jack Ryan Trumpet. Jack Ryan passed away soon afterwards and his place was taken by Vic Desmond. Over all the years that dances were held, no matter where, there was always a card (Euchre) tournament for the older folk and non-dancers,

and with the exception of the Saturday Night Dancers in the Castlemaine Town Hall, supper was always provided. During the winter months besides regular dances most organisations in Castlemaine and surrounding districts held a ball. The first one was always the Hospital Ball which had a debutante set where the girls always wore white gowns, also the debutantes at the St.

Mary's Ball wore white. At the R.S.L. Ball the debutantes were able to choose any colour they wished to wear, this was called the Rainbow Set. The boys who partnered the girls wore dinner suits. Another feature at most of the balls was the "Belle of the Ball". Several finalists were chosen for dress, dancing, and general appearance. These girls and their partners would perform a special dance at the end of which a Belle was chosen.

Whilst talking about music, I must mention Mr. Bill McGarigle who lived at Togni's. He played the Bagpipes, and to hear the sound of pipes echoing around Guildford on a summer's evening was great.

I am not sure when this bit of history eventuated but Mr. Henry Walters a motor mechanic from Castlemaine, set up a garage in the building next to the post office. I don't remember if it was open every day of the week or how long it kept going.

In the early 1940s the Guildford Younger Set was formed and the local teenagers spent many happy hours together, running dances and other forms of entertainment. Mrs Weston was Godmother. A later group was supervised by my wife Gwen.

In 1942 we had a severe bushfire in the district. We fought this fire

In those years there was no dole as we have today, Men received food vouchers for the grocer, butcher etc. but in return they had to do a number of hours work for the council, cleaning out gutters etc. This was called sustenance or commonly called the "Susso".



from when it started one Friday afternoon until the following Wednesday. We only had six knapsack pumps, four rakes, and six beaters at that time. Roy Stevens with his utility was the only means the brigade had of getting equipment to fires, but we were fortunate to have Charlie and Sam Atkins from Joyces Creek come up every day with their truck to take fire fighters to where ever they were required.

It was not until 1944 when we received our first fire truck. It was a 1938 Chevrolet with two Furphy tanks, when Frank picked it up from Melbourne it had only travelled 9 miles. We modified this truck and Frank and Jack Davis were responsible for having a water tank made at Thompsons Foundry and fitted. We had a petrol driven pump connected and I made large wooden boxes along each side of the tank to store knapsacks and other equipment. As we had no fire station, the truck was kept at my parent's place. We roofed the driveway between their place and Uncle George and Aunty Sylvia Tullo's place. It stayed there until 1944 when the C.F.A. provided the brigade with a fire station which was built on the site that used to be the blacksmiths shop. When the Guildford fire brigade was formed in 1944, Les Hopkins was our first Captain and Bill Herkes our first Secretary. I was Secretary later on for a period of seven years.

In 1949-50 boxing was a very popular sport in the Bendigo, Castlemaine and surrounding districts, Tournaments were held regularly in Bendigo and Castlemaine. Some good boxers came from these areas, Max Carlos from Shepparton won a state title, Des Duguid from Bendigo represented Australia in the Commonwealth Games.

Guildford started up a Gymnasium in Delmenico's Hall, we erected a ring, fitted up punch ball, punch bag and all the necessary equipment. Bill Martin who came to Guildford during the depression and lived in Prospero's house up Shicer's Gully and married Daisy Barassi, had done some boxing in his earlier years, so he was the instructor at our Gym. Frank was a good boxer and was not beaten in any of his fights. A championship tournament was held in Bendigo and Frank won the Featherweight title.

The next major project that happened in Guildford was the construction of the John Powell Reserve, it commenced in 1950 and was finished in early 1951. The contractors were the Bassett Family from Chewton, Russell Square as I described earlier was completely transformed into the beautiful sports ground you see today. As mentioned earlier when it was constructed,

the tennis court was covered, so the council purchased a portion of the land adjoining, which was owned by Mr. Earnest Weston and on this land two new asphalt tennis courts and a shelter were built. Tennis was very popular in the years to come, we had teams in all grades.

In March 1951 a very important part of Guildford's History was the installation of electricity. The power was turned on by Councillor John Powell who was the President of

the Newstead Council. My wife, Gwen and I had our house built and moved into it in December 1950. We used kerosene lamps and an ice chest until the power was turned on. The connection of electricity was a major event for all and hundreds of people attended this momentous evening.

All through the past years The Pound operated. This was a council department which employed a pound keeper, he regularly made visits around the roads in the shire, any cattle found on roadways were impounded, and it would cost an amount of money payable

to the council to have the cattle released. This was operating in the 1950s, I am not sure if it still operating or when it finished.

Next came the building of the new Public Hall, Dad being the only remaining member off the Oddfellows club decided to donate the Lodge Hall and the site to the Newstead Council. This enabled us to proceed building the new hall ; the old Lodge Hall was soon demolished and work began on the new hall. The whole building was completed by local voluntary labour with the exception of brickwork (Jack Milne), electrical (Jack Unmack), Plastering (Robert's Plaster Sheet Company). Jeff Ryland and Dave Carter were the tradesmen who took charge and directed the local labour force in all the carpentry roofing etc. ; Jack Connell was in charge of all the plumb-



One interesting item, I must mention was Eily Pass and myself singing "When you and I were Young Maggie". I had to be bald, and the only way we could accomplish this in those days was to have a pig's bladder pulled over my hair.

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ing works, the painting was carried out by Colin and Tony Holland ; The Ladies Committee purchased the curtain on the stage and furnished the Kitchen with all its utensils. The hall when completed was opened in 1958.

Some information about the Churches in the town. The Presbyterian was built in 1862, Wesleyan or Methodist 1870, Catholic (Unknown to me), and the Church of England was opened by the Bishop and Arch Deacon Crawford in November 1861. This church was blown down by a severe wind storm in It was rebuilt in Regular church services were held here as well as a Sunday School, but in later years approximately 1950 it was decided to have only one Sunday School in the town called "The Guildford Sunday School". This was for children of all denominations. It was held in the Methodist Church and Mr. John Powell was the superintendent. The Catholic Church only had a service once a month in my time and this ceased (Unknown to me). It was closed and then sold and is now a private residence. The Methodist Church which was also the Guildford Sunday School ceased having services in 1963, it was then leased to Mr. and Mrs. Envil who made it into an antique shop until it was sold in 1980 to become a private residence. The Presbyterian Church ceased having services I would say in the 1940s. The Church of England's building being weather board needed a lot of repair and so prompted the St. Marks Anglican community to approach the Presbyterian Church with the view of purchasing it from them. This eventuated and the Church of England bought it for 250 pounds in 1956 but a condition of the sale was that the bell which had a lovely tone and mounted on a very attractive iron frame, did not go with the building. The whereabouts of the bell was a mystery to the community. It was not until July 1963 when I took my son Ross to Haileybury College in South Road Brighton, for a scholarship examination, that we discovered its whereabouts. We walked into the quadrangle and there confronting us was the long lost bell. A suitable inscription on the frame stating " This bell from the Presbyterian Church in Guildford was donated to Haileybury College by the Presbytery of Macedon." We renovated, installed the pulpit and communion rails from the old church, purchased another altar and frontals from St. Anselms, Middle Park for 30 pounds. With the exception of painting, all the work was carried out by voluntary labour. The Dedication was on Sunday, 12th May, 1957. This was a day to remember. Not all the people who attended could get into the church. They had to listen to the service through doorways and windows. The Dedication service was carried out by the Bishop of Bendigo, the Right Reverend Bishop Riley assisted by the Venerable Arch Deacon Herring and Canon Wallace who was the Vicar at Christchurch Castlemaine. At present St. Marks is the only Church in the town having regular services.

I will conclude by telling the history of Dad's butchering business. I cannot remember anything of McElhinney's shop or business but I can remember quite clearly Dad completely flywiring in the shop. Also Uncle Jack and Dad, cutting down a large Red Gum tree in Franz's Paddock on the Loddon and from this tree, two large blocks approximately 2 ft. 6 in.

high and 2 ft. 6 in. across were cut with a cross cut saw. These were brought up in the dray and placed in the shop to be used as chopping blocks. Uncle Jack used to come down and help Dad on a Saturday morning until Frank and I were old enough to learn the butchering business. It was likewise with the killing of the sheep and bullocks. It was done by Dad , Frank and myself until Frank went to the war and I went to Melbourne to work. Then Pat became a slaughter girl. She would be at the slaughter yard when Dad got there from doing his rounds of Yapeen on Thursdays. Between them they would kill and dress a bullock. Whilst talking about slaughtering, during the

summer months we would have to stay there until dark keeping away the flies, and be there the next morning before sun-up to bring the carcass down to the shop. Dad made mince meat every Wednesday morning. All the cattle and sheep were bought at the Newstead Sale Yards every Wednesday. In the early days they were driven home by Uncle Jack with the help of us kids when we were on holidays. In approximately 1945 the sheep and cattle were transported from the sale yards to our paddock by cattle truck. Dad delivered meat around Yapeen and Guildford every Tuesday, Thursday and on Saturdays Vaughan, Tarilta and Yapeen. T -model Fords did the job for many years then a Bedford panel van followed by a Holden panel van. I used to do the Vaughan and Tarilta run on Saturday mornings. Working in the shop on Saturday mornings during the frosty winter periods was terrible. The meat was so cold it would nearly make you cry. I'm not sure when Dad started getting the slaughtering done at the Castlemaine Bacon Factory but it made life a lot easier for him. Gwen and I were married in 1948 and lived with Mum and Dad until our house was completed in January 1951, but we were still involved with helping Dad until we moved to Melbourne in September 1959. Dad closed the shop and retired from butchering soon after, but lived there until his death in July 1964. Mum then moved

into the house alongside Frank and Melva, who had built their house in 1952. By way of interest the house that Mum moved into, was built by Gwen's father and mother also in 1952 but unfortunately her father died before they moved in. Her mother lived there for a short time before selling

The "Bull-Boar Sausage"

When Dad converted the Hotel into a house, he left a large room at the rear. This had a brick copper in the rear corner and wash troughs along the back wall but there was still a large area which contained the large table on which the bull-boars were made. Also on this table the home made macaroni was rolled out and cut into thin strips. As I recall it was about 1925 when Mum, Dad, Auntie Lou, Uncle Jack, Granny Pass and Auntie Kate Stewart (Granny's sister) would gather in this room to make the bull-boars. It was all done by hand, no mechanical help, but we did not make as many at a time as Dad did later on when in the shop. He then used a kerosene driven stationary engine, which drove the sausage mince machine, and the bull-boar mincing machine. Dad made bull-boars on a regular basis during his time in the butchering business. Since then Frank, with the help of the Family has kept the tradition going by making about 200 pounds each year for the family and relations. Very important historically is that the table and machine still being used are those that were used in 1925. I do not know how long they had been used prior to this.

In 1942 we had a severe bushfire in the district. We fought this fire from when it started one Friday afternoon until the following Wednesday. We only had six knapsack pumps, four rakes, and six beaters at that time.

it to Jack and Josie Connell. They occupied the house until Mum bought it in 1964. She lived there until she died in July 1972.

I am sure there were many other interesting events which happened during my years in Guildford but I do believe that I have covered most events of interest.

GG



Ron Passalacqua passed away on 8th February, 2010.

Triathlon: Local girls do good

On Sunday 29th January The Guilly Gals consisting of local business women; Hilary Lovibond (Guildford General Store), Michelle McKendry (Guildford Post Office) and Deb Dodson (Deborah Lea Cakes) left sleepy Guildford at 4.30am to take on their first triathlon at Albert Park, Melbourne. The triathlon was organized to raise funds for Breast Cancer Research.

It was a lovely summer morning and hundreds of competitors converged on the precinct of Albert Park. More a triathlon relay, where we each did a single leg. We were underway when Hilary hit the pool in the 300m swim. With high spirited aggression she ripped through the pool over and under the arms and legs of other competitors. Then she handed over to Deb on the bike running to the transition stage joining the others on the 9km course. Avoiding other competitors and negotiating the tight turns Deb pedalled well achieving her best time before professionally



Deb Dodson, Hilary Lovibond Michelle McKendry after their big day out.

handing off to Michelle who was keen to run the Albert Park Lake circuit. Swiftly, Shell sprinted into the distance ready to complete the 3km run doing a

great job keeping up with the other competitors and putting in her heart and soul.

The day was a lot of fun, and was great to spend time with friends and other women for a great cause. The Guilly Gals were very happy with their efforts as they came in 19th out of 221 competitors doing the same course. Not to be sneezed at.

Of course the big success of the day was local business identity Sharon Baker, known also for her 'Fit n Foxy' personal training business who placed 1st for the long course event. Brilliant Sharon!

If there are other triathlons in the future it's a sure bet that Guildford will be well represented again.



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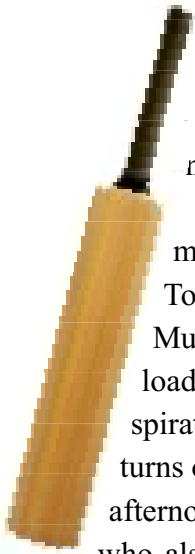
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U16 Cricketers are serious contenders



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We have a full team with new club members: Darcy Connell, Matthew Grey, Tom Horne, Beau Kitchingman and James Murray bringing great energy, enthusiasm and loads of skill to the team. Led capably by inspirational captain Charlie Bunting (who also turns out for the Guildford A Grade team in the afternoon) Xavier Mawson and Jayson Glenister who also play senior cricket for Guildford, the team has had mixed success so far with two easy wins, a draw that would have been a win but for the intervention of Mother Nature and two narrow losses.

Highlights for the year have so far included Alex Lim's (our youngest and most enthusiastic player) first wicket, Angus "the Rock" McDonald not losing his wicket in any game before Christmas, the Banko brothers - Ollie and Sam - continuing to impress with bat, ball and in the field, and Michael Dettmer's continued improvement as a big hitting and wicket taking all-rounder. Our last two games are at Campbell's Creek (9-11am; Feb 18 and 25) and home at Guildford against Castlemaine (Mar 3 and 10) before the serious business of having a red hot go at the first ever flag for the Guildford Juniors start with finals commencing Mar 17th.



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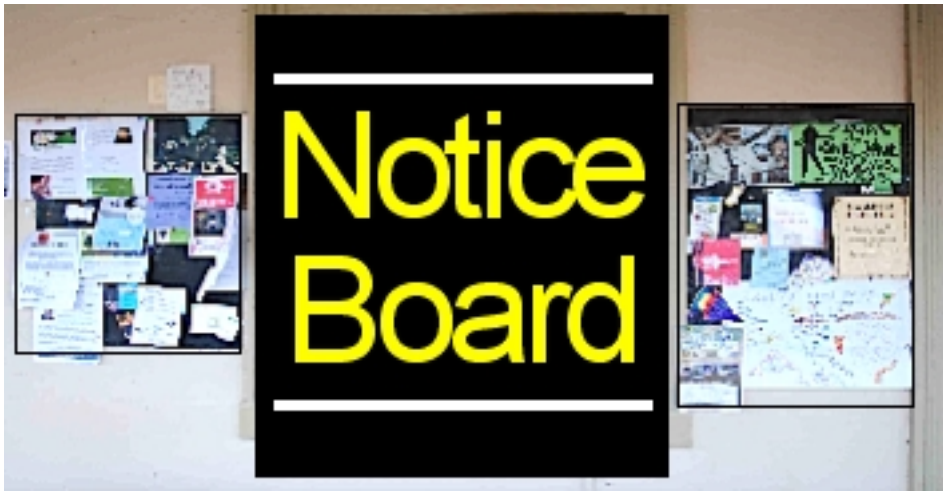
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